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kind that we have seen, and the author is to be heartily congratulated on the success of her work. The book is to be begun at the opening of the school year, and the lessons are so arranged as to discuss those objects which are accessible at the time when the lessons are intended to be read. The teacher is expected to have the objects themselves in the room, and if possible to have them collected by the children. We shall be much mistaken if an illustrated course of reading like this does not awaken in many a youngster a new interest in plants.

The illustrations are well drawn, and add much to the value of the book. A goodly number seem to be original; a few are from Kerner, which are acknowledged; while the majority are after the well known drawings of Sprague, in Gray's text-books, and might well have been acknowledged. The illustrator has drawn the English *Viscum* instead of the American *Phoradendron*, which is the mistletoe "sold in our shops at Christmas" over the greater part of the country, though possibly the English mistletoe comes to the New York markets. *Fig. 136*, alleged to be "a seed cut across," is like nothing in the heaven above or the earth beneath, and ought to be replaced.

Besides being suitable for schools this is the kind of book for which many parents are looking to put into the hands of their children, or to read with them in the home. Botanists are often asked to recommend such books, and there is now one which can be named to inquirers without misgivings.—C. R. B.

The nucleus.

THE recent extensive studies upon the cell nucleus have produced a voluminous literature regarding it. About three years ago a general and very brief summary of this literature was published by Dr. A. Zimmermann.² The same author has now brought together this and more recent scattered information, with critical sifting, to form a work upon the morphology and physiology of the cell nucleus.³ In the general part he thus discusses methods of research, nomenclature, distribution, number, size, and form of the nucleus, its chemical composition, the structure of the resting nucleus, division, fusion, and physiology. In the special part the present state of knowledge regarding the nuclear phenomena of each of the larger groups of plants is given, with especial reference to reproductive processes.

How voluminous is the literature thus critically examined is probably not appreciated except by those who have given special study to cytology. The main phenomena regarding the nucleus are much alike in plants and ani-

² Beihefte zum Bot. Cent. 3:206, 320, 401. 1894.—4:81. 1895.

³ ZIMMERMANN, A.—Morphologie und physiologie des pflanzlichen Zellkernes. Ein kritische Literaturstudie. 8vo, pp. viii + 188. figs. 84. Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1896. M 5.

mals, and Zimmerman has confined himself to pointing out the relations between the zoological and botanical researches. Though he therefore does not cite any very large number of the zoological papers, the list in the bibliography embraces almost 600 titles!

We are glad to observe that due notice has been given to the papers by American botanists, among whom may be noted Campbell, Humphrey, Davis, Chamberlain, Schaffner, Harper, Fairchild, Halsted, and Mottier.

This book will be needed in every library, and will be of great assistance to every teacher. It is well illustrated from drawings made chiefly by the author's wife.—C. R. B.

MINOR NOTICES.

MR. JAMES M. MACOUN has recently distributed three contributions to the knowledge of the Canadian flora.⁴ The first two cited contain additions to the Canadian flora, additional stations, and the revision of names in accordance with recent monographs. The Labrador list is compiled from all available lists and specimens, being tabulated so as to show the distribution of each species.—J. M. C.

A SECOND CONTRIBUTION⁵ to the flora of Yucatan has been issued from the Field Columbian Museum. It includes plants collected by Dr. G. F. Gaumer in 1895, Sr. Porfirio Valdez in 1896, and the author in 1887 and 1895. The contribution adds 120 genera and 272 species to the recorded flora of the peninsula, among which are a new genus (*Setariopsis* Scribner, founded upon *Setaria auriculata* Fourn. and *S. latiglumis* Vasey), and thirteen new species (*Agaricus*, *Asterina*, *Pestalozzia*, *Selaginella*, *Peperomia*, *Cracca*, *Argithamnia*, *Croton*, *Euphorbia*, *Pedilanthus*, *Quararibea*, *Corallocarpus*). So far as recorded 527 species are known from the mainland, and 315 from the contiguous islands. It is interesting to note that Leguminosæ head the list with 100 species, Compositæ following with seventy, Euphorbiaceæ with fifty-two, the remaining families dropping below thirty.—J. M. C.

MR. E. B. ULINE has just published an account of the Mexican and Central American species of *Dioscorea*,⁶ being the result of studies at the University of Berlin. Thirty-nine species are included, eleven of which are

⁴ MACOUN, JAMES M.—Contr. Herb. Geol. Sur. Can. VIII and IX. Reprint from Can. Rec. Sci. Oct. 1895, Jan. and Apr. 1896. List of the plants known to occur on the coast and in the interior of the Labrador peninsula. Ann. Rep. Geol. Sur. Can. 8:353-356.

⁵ MÜLLSPAUGH, CHARLES FREDERICK.—Contribution II to the coastal and plain flora of Yucatan. Field Columb. Mus. Bot. Ser. 1:277-340. pl. 8-21. D. 1896.

⁶ ULINE, EDWIN B.—*Dioscoreae mexicanæ et centrali-americanæ*. Engler's bot. Jahrb. 22:421-432. 1896.